



**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
December 3, 2014**

I. Call to order

The meeting of the Maryland Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at 10:30AM in the Board Room of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present:

Vice Chairman Mario VillaSanta
William Cox Jr.
Carol Petzold
Gary Simpson
Charles Deegan
Cathy Riley
Michael Moore
George Littrell, Jr.
Elmer Horsey
Micah Watson
Makeda Scott
MDOT Staff Ian Beam
MDOT Staff Tina Quinichette

Vice Chairman Mario VillaSanta called the meeting to order at 10:35AM. The November 5th minutes were approved. Ms. Petzold asked that the minutes be sent out two weeks prior to the next meeting so that the committee will have time to go over them beforehand.

III. Briefing

Ian Beam introduced Sonal Sanghavi from SHA, and Office of Environmental Design, to discuss the Blue Star Memorial Summary. Ms. Sanghavi noted that SHA works with the garden clubs and the design of the various signs. She also introduced the different aspects of the Blue Star Memorials in her handout and presentation entitled Blue Star Highways, Memorials and Byways. Mr. Beam added the information from a Cedric Ward email handout, stating that he does not want a saturation of signs in Maryland from a safety perspective. Mr. Beam stated that this has been the consistent view of SHA throughout his time at MDOT.

Ms. Riley asked about which sign the Garden Club wants to use for the Park and Ride dedication. She also asked how MDOT is involved in getting the signs and does this encourage dedicators to put signs somewhere other than a place visible to the highway? Mr. Beam and Ms. Sanghavi stated that this was not necessarily the case.

Mr. Moore inquired as to who authorizes the signs for the Garden Clubs? Who makes the final decision as to where it will be placed.? Ms. Sanghavi stated that SHA mainly has the

authorization, but only for the designated Blue Star Memorial corridor in Maryland, based mainly around US 301. They are working on a better management system for the signs along with their authorized areas. Mr. Beam added that the Garden Clubs have occasionally gone directly to the SHA Engineers for the placement requests in their areas and bypassed the Commission.

Mr. Moore commented that there should be a partnership between organizations who wish to use the signs for dedications. In the event that there are multiple requests for the same person, they should coordinate together and decided on where it should, especially the Garden Clubs.

Mr. Beam added that when a request is made for a sign in an authorized SHA location, it needs to be routed through the Clearinghouse system for approval. He also mentioned that there is apparent intense competition between Garden Clubs to get dedications in their districts.

Ms. Sanghavi mentioned that the Garden Clubs could look into memorial markers instead of the highway signs. The committee moved to table and discuss this subject at a later time.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Adjournment

Hearing no other items of business, the Commission adjourned at 11:25AM until January 7, 2014 at MDOT HQ.